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Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Identical letters dated 17 November 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the refugees of the Northern Martakert and Eastern Martuni regions of the former Nagorno Karabagh Autonomous Region, as well as the Armenian populated territories of Shahumyan and Getashen, bordering Nagorno Karabagh (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 100.

(*Signed*) Armen **Martirosyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 17 November 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

We understand that Azerbaijan is preparing to introduce a discussion at the General Assembly on "the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan".

We are Armenians who were expelled from our homes in Northern Martakert and Eastern Martuni, in the former Nagorno Karabakh autonomous region as well as the territories bordering Nagorno Karabakh, such as Shahumyan and Getashen. There are more than 50,000 of us. (We are just a portion of the hundreds of thousands who were expelled from Azerbaijan's large cities, far from the conflict zone.) We were at the heart of the conflict zone. Indeed, as a result of the conflict, our homes, properties and regions were confiscated by Azerbaijan and remain under Azerbaijani control. We have been living as refugees for over a dozen years and continue to hope for the day when we will be able to return to our homes and lands.

We believe that if and when a discussion on the situation of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone is indeed presented for discussion at the General Assembly, it is essential for the discussion to include the situation and the needs and realities of all refugees in the entire conflict zone. War is traumatic and painful enough for all those affected, but to pick and choose which refugees should become the focus of concern and attention is morally cruel and politically short-sighted.

(*Signed*) Edik **Balayan**
Shahumyan-Getashen Patriotic Benevolent Association

(*Signed*) Petros **Meghryan**
Shahen Meghryan Foundation